




STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
Department of Human Services
Center For Child and Family Health
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Mark Reynolds (NHPRI)
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FROM: Deborah Florio (Administrator, CCFH) 

SUBJECT: Benefit Clarification – Oral Health-Related Services in Managed Care

DATE: 02/15/2010

This Benefit Clarification Memorandum supercedes the Benefit Clarification dated December 30, 2010 from the Department of Human Services regarding In-Plan oral health related services. Please let this serve as clarification to the questions we have received about oral health services covered as in-Plan benefits under Rhode Island Medicaid managed care programs.

• **COVERAGE FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**

The Rhode Island Department of Human Services *Emergency Medical Services Policy for Rite Care and Rhody Health Partners Programs (revised 09/18/07)* sets forth the following definition of Emergency Medical Services that apply to dental conditions:

1. EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

The Department of Human Services Medical Assistance Program's definition of Emergency Medical Services is as follows:

Emergency services are defined as services provided after the sudden onset of a medical condition manifesting itself by acute symptoms of sufficient severity (including severe pain) that the absence of immediate medical attention could reasonably be expected to result in placing the patient's health in serious jeopardy, serious impairment to bodily functions, or serious dysfunction of any bodily organ or part.

The term "medical condition" in this definition includes physical, mental, or dental conditions.

- **IN-PATIENT, OUT-PATIENT, ANESTHESIA**

Rite Care Health Plans are responsible for operating room charges and anesthesia services related to dental treatment received by a Medicaid beneficiary in an inpatient setting and hospital outpatient setting, billed on a UB04 with a CMS Place of Service Code 21 or Code 22. This would include instances when the procedure that is being performed in the inpatient or outpatient hospital setting (CMS Place of Service Code 21 or Code 22) is considered *dental* in nature, (e.g. extensive restorative dental work or third molar extractions when there is medical necessity for inpatient or outpatient hospital based treatment). Professional dental services or dentist's charges (except for those listed in the attached *Schedule of In-Plan Dental Benefits*) performed in the inpatient or outpatient hospital setting are billed either to the Rite Smiles program or to the Rhode Island Medical Assistance program on a standard American Dental Association (ADA) claim form.

- **COMMUNITY SETTINGS**

Rite Care Health Plans are not responsible for dental services (except for those listed in the attached *Schedule of In-Plan Dental Benefits*) performed in a hospital-based clinic setting or in a community dentist's setting, which are billed on a standard ADA claim form. Rite Care Health Plans are not responsible for anesthesia charges rendered in a hospital-based clinic setting or in a community dentist's setting. Charges for covered dental and anesthesia services are billed either to the Rite Smiles program or to the Rhode Island Medical Assistance program.

- **FLUORIDE VARNISH**

Lastly, Rite Care Health Plans are responsible for covering the application of fluoride varnish to the teeth of high-risk Rite Care enrolled children when performed in a Primary Care Provider's office.

Questions regarding this memo should be directed to your health plan liaison.

cc: Elena Nicolella
Lissa DiMauro
Rick Jacobsen
John Andrews
Alison Croke
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Jim Gaito
Holly Garvey